

**THE NORTH HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
5 LINSLEY STREET
NORTH HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**

MINUTES

Date: February 10, 2011

Attendance at this REGULAR Meeting: Sandra Cummings, Bert Mozealous, Alicia Clapp, Carole Franceschet, James Hogan, Anita Anderson, Wesley O'Brien, Bryan Bogen, and Patricia K. Brozek, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Mr. DiCapua was not in attendance

7:30 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of January 13, 2011

Motion: to approve the Minutes of January 13, 2011

Approved

MOVED: Alicia Clapp
SECOND: James Hogan
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

2. Budgets:

- a. 2010-2011 Budget
- b. State and Federal Funds
- c. Extra-Curricular Activities

Moved: to accept budget reports and place them on file

Approved

MOVED: James Hogan
SECOND: Bryan Bogen
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

3. Report of Standing Committees

- a. Finance and Operations

Mr. Bogen reported that Finance and Operations met this evening and discussed the current year budget and the upcoming budget. Mr. Bogen also stated that they discussed the removal of the snow off the roofs of the schools.

1. Approval of the 2011-2012 Budget

Moved: to approve the 2011-2012 Budget

Approved

MOVED: Bryan Bogen
SECOND: James Hogan
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

b. Personnel

c. Curriculum, Instruction and Planning

Mrs. Franceschet reported that Curriculum, Instruction and Planning met on February 7, 2011. She stated that a Math Coach from Ansonia demonstrated the Grade 3 Assessments. Mrs. Franceschet reported that Jill Metz, Social Studies Program Coordinator proposed moving Civics to senior year making it a more meaningful course experience and providing a year-long course in Tenth Grade. She reported that Mark Russo, Middle School Math Teacher, shared the math curriculum implementation. Mrs. Franceschet stated they also discussed next year's calendar. The next Curriculum, Instruction and Planning meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2011 at 9:30.

1. Approval of calendar for 2011-2012

Ms. Brozek reported that the 2011-2012 calendar shows 181 days, but wants to bring to everyone's attention that, just like this year, if we have snow days additional days that will be taken from April's vacation, if needed.

Moved: to approve the calendar for 2011-2012

Approved

MOVED: Alicia Clapp
SECOND: Wesley O'Brien
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

2. Approval to fulfill the State Mandate of a minimum of 180 student days due to emergency weather conditions

Moved: To approve to fulfill the State Mandate of a minimum of 180 students days due to emergency weather conditions

Approved

MOVED: Alicia Clapp
SECOND: Bert Mozealous
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Ms. Brozek explained that due to the weather related cancellations, they are asking for the Board to Change the requirement from 181 to 180 days (which is required by the State). She also stated that a Professional Development Day on March 14, 2011 will be cancelled, giving us back 2 days. Ms. Brozek reported by doing we are still within the State requirements and Graduation will be June 24, 2011 as of this date. She also stated any additional snow days will result in days being taken from April vacation, and if we use all of April vacation, then we will have to go to June 27th.

4. ACES

Mrs. Clapp reported she attended the ACES meeting this afternoon and the budgets were approved as well as the approval of their school calendar. Mrs. Clapp stated there was an update on the Early Head Start Program that is housed in Middletown and services several Shoreline towns. She stated that the funding will carry over for a year and will be fully enrolled within the next six months.

5. North Haven PTA Council

Mrs. Franceschet reported that PTA Council met on Monday, January 24, 2011. She reported that Mark Pachuba, Educational Consultant in Artist for Young Audiences, Arts Learning presented at this meeting. Mrs. Franceschet reported that he spoke about the value of integrating the Arts into the lives of all children. She reported that the NHEA asked the PTA to help support an informative workshop for parents on February 3, 2011 at the High School in the auditorium. Mrs. Franceschet reported the next meeting will be held on March 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

6. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported:

- Montowese Elementary School: Grades K-5 Completed their Winter Aims Web Universal Screening, Grade 2 had their first Cultural Exchange with Dunbar Hill School (Hamden), PTA has provided various school wide cultural programs, Grade 5 students attended the Connecticut Association of Schools Elementary Art Banquet at the Aqua Turf February 8, 2011. Those students were Caroline Gabrielle and Billy VanNieuwenihuyze.
- North Haven High School: College Career Pathways Program, facilitated by Mrs. Carol Ardito in the Business Dept. The program is a partnership between Gateway and North Haven High School, open to High School juniors who want to explore career opportunities while earning free college credits. Also in the business department we had students attending a financial literacy fair in New Haven, which was featured in the Wepawaug-Flagg Federal Credit Union flyer. Guys and Dolls will take place Thursday March 3, 2011 and March 4 and 5, 2011.
- North Haven Middle School: had an outstanding public speaker, Anita Shorr, Holocaust survivor for the 8th grade, the NEASC accreditation visit will be May 15-May 18, 2011 and the school is finishing up their self study this month in preparation for the visit.
- Green Acres Elementary School: there was CMT overview giving by Linda Cahill, Principal, Paul Castiglione, Math Coordinator PreK-5, Marie Santore, and Eileen Florio on February 9 for the PTA, as well as having Green Acres Night at the Quinnipiac Hockey Rink on February 4, 2011. The Quinnipiac Ice Hockey Coach, Rand Pecknall was a former North Haven High School teacher.
- Ridge Road Elementary School: There is a new enter/exit procedure at Ridge Road for both the buses and cars during drop off and pick up times. Future Teachers website talks about encouraging Poets in your music classes and talks of eleven year old Nigel Regan wanted to write a poem for his Teacher, Melissa Hudson, at Ridge Road School in North Haven Connecticut, at the end of his 5th grade year. According to his mother, Julie Bossenberry, "Melissa is an amazing teacher who can unlock the gift of music in her students. When she met my son, he had shown no interest in music." Ms. Hudson helped Nigel start playing the saxophone, reading music, and improvising jazz. Nigel now also plays trumpet and piano. Congratulations to both Nigel and Ms. Hudson!
- Ms. Brozek extended sympathies to the family of Adeline Matthis, who passed away last month. Mrs. Matthis was a long time secretary at Clintonville Elementary School.

7. Public Comments

- Krista Kaplin, Governors Drive, representing the NHEA. She and Anthony Giordano have been doing a lot of research regarding the history of the budget in North Haven trying to get parents more involved. She has invited the Board to attend their second informational meeting, Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at the North Haven Middle School Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

- Sean Laydon, parent and teacher in North Haven commented on the budget being presented. Stating that the 1% increase, in his opinion, is a big disservice.
- Kara Ladoor, inquired about health savings accounts or incentives of that sort for teachers. Mr. Gomeau stated that they are going to introduce health savings accounts, etc next year through Ovation Benefits.
- Jenny Caldwell, Kimberly Circle, has concerns regarding teacher's supplies and the budget. She has some concerns regarding the administrators being added to Central office over the past 3-4 years instead of supplies the teachers may need. Ms. Brozek responded that the positions Mrs. Caldwell inquired about at Central have been the same for the past 20 years. Mrs. Caldwell also questions whether the administrators are giving up anything, because she feels that if the teachers are doing without, so should the administrators with regards to their contracts.
- Kim Rossi, Edison Drive inquired about Grade 4 classes at Ridge Road are very crowded. This year there are 27-28 children into each of the two 4th grade classrooms. She is requesting a third Grade 4 classroom, or an instructional aide to assist the teacher. Ms. Brozek responded that she is planning on adding an additional 5th grade teacher next year.
- Adam Sarat, Allendale Drive, commented that how can we get an additional teacher with only 1% increase. He stated that we should start out higher, just in case the town cuts the budget. He also said his child's class is over crowded and his child's classroom needs an additional paraprofessional this year.
- Krista Kaplin wanted to make an additional comment stating the in 20 years the Board of Finance has only approved the Board of Education's budget twice. She also agrees with Mr. Sarat, with great concern that they will cut the 1%.
- Viviana Torres, a junior at North Haven High School, has concerns with regards to the AP Spanish class being removed from the World Language curriculum for next year. Ms. Brozek commented that this issue was discussed in Curriculum, Instruction and Planning last month and suggested that Ms. Torres meet with Dr. Dallai on the specifics as to what they have decided to do in lieu of the AP Spanish.
- Margaretta Torres stated her disappointment that AP Spanish is not being offered next year, stating that her daughter has been working very hard and planned accordingly to take certain classes over her 4 years. Ms. Brozek again advised Mrs. Torres to contact Dr. Dallai or Mrs. Baptie, the World Language Program Coordinator.
- Maria Esposito, Homewood Avenue, wanted to know when we will be announcing the new superintendent. Ms. Brozek responded that he will be announced this evening.
- Julie Bossenberry, wanted to thank the Board of Education for recognizing Melissa Hutson. Mrs. Bossenberry wanted to echo the sentiments of Krista and Sean and the others here tonight, stating that she feels 1% is too low.
- Dorothy Logan, Hartford Turpkie, PTA Representative for NHEA, made comment to the PTA members and the amounts of money they are raising.
- Kara Ladoor questioned if something needs to be cut, what would it be. She is concerned that all day kindergarten will be cut. Ms. Brozek responded that all day kindergarten will not be cut.

8. Executive Session:

Moved: to moved into executive session to discuss the Superintendent search.

Approved

MOVED: Bert Mozealous
 SECOND: James Hogan
 AYE: 8
 NAY: 0
 ABSTAIN: 0

Moved: to move out of executive session into public session

Approved

MOVED: Wesley O'Brien
SECOND: James Hogan
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Moved: That the North Haven Board of Education does hereby elect
Dr. Robert D. Cronin in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes
Section 10-157 to be its Superintendent of Schools

Approved

MOVED: James Hogan
SECOND: Wesley O'Brien
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Moved: That the Board approves the related contract of
employment between Dr. Cronin, and the Board, and authorizes its
Chairperson to sign such contract on its behalf.

Approved

MOVED: James Hogan
SECOND: Anita Anderson
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Mrs. Cummings congratulation Dr. Cronin and welcomed him to North Haven.

Dr. Cronin thanked the Board of Education for giving him this opportunity to serve as Superintendent in North Haven and stated in his research on North Haven, he is very impressed with how kind and helpful everyone has been to him. Dr. Cronin stated that he is very excited to be part of the North Haven community.

9. Adjournment

Moved: to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Approved

MOVED: Welsey O'Brien
SECOND: James Hogan
AYE: 8
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Cummings
Chairman